Needs of aircrafts for local travel

673. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism is considering a proposal for the Indian Airlines which would procure 30—40 Aircrafts within the next two years;

(b) if so, what is the actual need of Indian Airlines or Air India to meet the the rush of passengers; and

(c) by when India is likely to provide satisfactory Air sirvice and whether it is a fact that it takes a number of days to get a seat in the Aircraft even for the local travels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) With the approval of the Govt., Indian Airlines has entered into a purchase agreement, in March, 1986, with M|s. Airbus Industries for acquisition of 19 Airbus A-320 aircraft, delivery of which will commence from April, 1989 onwards. Indian Airlines has also placed a Letter of Intent for the purchase of 12 additional Airbus A-320 aircraft during 1990-91. The proposal to convert this Letter of Intent into a firm order is under the consideration of the Govt. Besides, Indian Airlines would also induct a few aircraft on lease to meet the interim requirement.

(b) and (c) Taking into consideration the requirements of all sectors of the economy, the Planning Commission has placed certain ceilings on the growth of air traffic Air India and Indian Airlines plan to induct aircraft to cater to the traffic growth upto the ceilings laid down by the Planning Commission.

Disbursement from Solatium fund

674. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been reported that many States have to disburse compensation to victims of hit-and-run accidents on the roads and the bulk of the funds earmarked for the purpose remain un-utilised;

(b) whether it is also a fact that till March 31st, 1987 out of the fund of Rs. 4.82 crores, only Rs. 53 lakhs was disbursed;

(c) if so, whether the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939 was amended in 1982 to secure not only strict enforcement of road safety measures but also to make it a measure of social justice; and

(d) whether the Solatium funds have not been fully utilised by both the Centre and the States if so, what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (d) Trough an amendment of the Motor Vehicles Act 1939, in 1982 the scheme of payment of compensation in respect of 'Hit-and-Run' accident victims was introduced. Disbursement of solatium compensation to the claimants in the case of hit-and-run accidents is done by District Collectors|District Magistrates, under whose disposal the funds are placed through the nodal officer in the State|UT, namely Transport Commissioner|Director of Transport|The District Collectors|Magistrates are the Claims Settlement Commissioners, for making awards and payments.

In accordance with the report received from the State Governments|UT Administrations, the comparative position as on 31.3.1987 and 31.10.1988 is as follows:

	31-3-87	31-10-88
(i) Claim applications received	2415	4105
(ii) Applications finalized and decided	1704	3197
(iii) Applications under process	435	712
(iv) Amount of solatium compensation disbursed	Rs. 53 lakhs	Rs. 97 lakhs
(v) Fund position	Rs. 4.82 crores	Rs. 9.51 crores